AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of treating a material comprising red blood cells, the method comprising,

a) adding a compound to the material comprising red blood cells in order to inactivate a pathogen, if present in the material, the compound comprising a nucleic acid binding ligand and a functional group which is, or which forms, an electrophilic group, wherein the electrophilic group can react covalently with nucleic acid; and

b) adding an effective amount of a quencher to the material comprising red blood cells ~~in order to reduce~~ that reduces the level of side reactions of the compound, wherein the quencher comprises a nucleophilic group that ~~can react~~ reacts covalently with the electrophilic group, wherein the addition of the quencher is done prior to, simultaneously with, or within about 20 minutes after the addition of the compound, and wherein the compound inactivates at least about 1 log of the pathogen, if present in the material.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the electrophilic group is cationic.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the electrophilic group is selected from the group consisting of an aziridine and an aziridinium ion.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises treating the material with the compound and the quencher *in vitro*.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises treating the material with the compound and the quencher *ex vivo*.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the functional group is a mustard group that is capable of reacting *in situ* to form the electrophilic group.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The method of claim [[7]]1, wherein the nucleic acid binding ligand is selected from the group consisting of furocoumarins, furocoumarin derivatives, acridines and acridine derivatives; and wherein the functional group is a mustard group.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the compound inactivates at least about 3 logs of the pathogen, if present in the material.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn-currently amended): The method of claim [[7]]1, wherein the nucleic acid binding ligand is a polyamine and wherein the electrophilic group is selected from the group consisting of an aziridine and an aziridinium ion.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleophilic group is a thiol.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the treating of the material comprising red blood cells comprises incubation with the material comprising red blood cells, the compound and the quencher for at least about 1 to 48 hours.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein on addition of the compound and the quencher, the concentration of the compound in the material comprising red blood cells is about 0.1 μM to about 5 mM.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein on addition of the compound and the quencher, the concentration of the compound in the material comprising red blood cells is about 50 μM to about 500 μM.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein on addition of the compound and the quencher, the molar ratio of quencher:compound is in the range of 100:1 to 1:1.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the molar ratio of quencher:compound is in the range of about 50:1 to 1:1.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the addition of the quencher is done prior to or simultaneously with the addition of the compound.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The method of claim [[18]]17, wherein the nucleic acid binding ligand is selected from the group consisting of furocoumarins, furocoumarin derivatives, acridines and acridine derivatives; and wherein the functional group is a mustard group.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 17, wherein the nucleic acid binding ligand is a polyamine and wherein the electrophilic group is selected from the group consisting of an aziridine and an aziridinium ion.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the red blood cells in the material are suitable for transfusion after the treatment.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the quencher comprises a nucleophilic group selected from the group consisting of a thiol, a thioacid, a dithioic

acid, a phosphate, a thiophosphate, an amine, a thiocarbamate, and a dithiocarbamate, or a salt thereof.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the red blood cells in the material are suitable for transfusion after the treatment.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the quencher comprises a nucleophilic group selected from the group consisting of a thiol, a thioacid, a dithioic acid, a phosphate, a thiophosphate, an amine, a thiocarbamate, and a dithiocarbamate, or a salt thereof.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the red blood cell function of the red blood cells in the material is not substantially altered by the treatment.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the red blood cell function of the red blood cells in the material is not substantially altered by the treatment.